

Behavioral and Social Research Program

Fellowships

Award Mechanisms for Fellowships

- F31 – Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award
- F32 – Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award
- F33 – National Research Service Award for Senior Fellows

Grant: 5F31AG005921-04
Program Director: STAHL, SIDNEY M.
Principal Investigator: MARQUEZ, DAVID X PHD
Title: MINORITY PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA- CHAMPAIGN, IL
CHAMPAIGN
Project Period: 2002/09/30-2004/09/24

DESCRIPTION: (Adapted from the Applicant's Abstract): The candidate's future research endeavors will be focused in the area of determinants of physical activity in older Latino adults. Latinos will become the largest minority group in the United States by the early 21st century (Council on Scientific Affairs, AMA, 1991). Unfortunately, 36 percent of Latino adults report no participation in leisure time physical activity (National Center for Health Statistics, 1999) and 51 percent of those aged 65-74 report no leisure time physical activity. In addition, attrition from physical activity programs approximates 50 percent within the first 6 months. The proposed research program is designed to combine two theoretical approaches, social cognitive theory and self-presentation theory, in an effort to understand the determinants of physical activity among Latino adults. The candidate proposes to begin this work by examining the relationships among social physique anxiety, self-efficacy, and the exercise behavior of older adults in an existing data set. Findings from this study will be used to assist in designing a study examining the role of these constructs in the exercise behavior of older Latinos and to identify strategies for changing the exercise environment to maximize participation in this population.

Grant: 1F31AG022291-01
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: MCPHERSON-SALANDY, RENEE D MA
Title: Self-Disclosure and their Psychophysiological Correlates
Institution: LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY BROOKLYN BROOKVILLE, NY
CAMPUS
Project Period: 2003/09/02-2004/09/01

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Pennebaker (1995, 1990) has discussed the importance of emotional disclosure in maintaining good physical health. Research with European-American samples has generally supported the model. However, there is a dearth of research examining the applicability of this model of emotional expression and its effects on health within minority populations. In addition, there are extremely limited data on the psycho physiological response of African-Americans under conditions of emotional stress. What limited literature exists suggests a pattern that appears to be at variance with the data on European-Americans. As well, there are also very limited data on how developmental changes related to age affect the somatic-physiological response patterns to emotional stimuli. Such data would help determine whether we can generalize current assessment and treatment practices developed with younger adults to older adults. The following study was designed to address these deficiencies in the literature. Objective: To examine interracial differences in emotional expression and psycho physiological responsiveness developmentally as a function of age. Methodology: The participants of this study are to be 120 community-dwelling adults, with 40 participants in each of three age groups: 18-35, 36-56, and 57+, balanced for gender. Approximately half of the sample will be African-American and half will be European-American.

Grant: 1F31AG021879-01
Program Director: STAHL, SIDNEY M.
Principal Investigator: OTILINGAM, POORNI G MPH
Title: Social Marketing and Dementia Care in Ethnic Elders
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, CA
Project Period: 2003/06/01-2006/05/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Ethnic elders have been found to wait to access services for dementia care until symptoms become severe. This is in contrast to Caucasians, who have been found to be served by dementia care at an earlier stage, where some dementia symptoms can potentially be reversed (e.g., B12 deficiency, medicinal side effects, infections). Hence, the long-term goal of this research proposal is to acquire information regarding the delay in accessing dementia care services, and then to promote behavior change using social marketing and stages of change models. The research proposal has four objectives: 1) to understand the reasons behind the delay in accessing dementia care, factoring in ethnic elders' and their caregivers' stage of behavior change, as well as their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices (KABP) towards delayed dementia-care seeking; 2) to segment the sample, creating a target audience based on their stage of change; 3) to develop stage-specific key messages with the involvement of ethnic elders and their caregivers to address different KABPs; and 4) to disseminate and evaluate the effectiveness of these key messages among the target audience. Data will be collected via university-based and community partnering organizations utilizing focus groups and surveys. Analyses will include factor analysis, multiple regression models, and hierarchical linear modeling.

Grant: 1F31AG021872-01
Program Director: CHON-LEE, ANGIE J
Principal Investigator: PATEL, KUSHANG V MPH
Title: Minority Predoctoral Fellowship Program
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BR GALVESTON, TX
GALVESTON
Project Period: 2003/01/06-2005/01/05

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The purpose of the proposed research is to use the Disablement Process model to examine mechanisms through which neighborhood characteristics influence the development of disability and the risk of mortality in older Mexican Americans. This project will use longitudinal data from the Hispanic Established Population for the Epidemiological Study of the Elderly (Hispanic EPESE), a probability sample of 3,050 older Mexican Americans residing in five southwestern states. These data will be geocoded and merged with 1990 and 2000 US Census data. Primary outcomes include disability & mortality while secondary outcomes include medical conditions, cognitive & sensory impairments, and lower body function. The following are specific aims for the proposed project: Aim 1. Determine whether neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics and neighborhood assimilation (lower percent concentration of Mexican Americans) are associated with stages of the Disablement Process model (pathology >>> impairment >>> functional limitation >>> disability) and mortality. Aim 2. Determine whether changes in neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics and percent concentration of Mexican Americans between 1990 and 2000 correlate with stages of the Disablement Process model (pathology >>> impairment >>> functional limitation >>> disability) and mortality.

Grant: 1F31AG021329-01
Program Director: STAHL, SIDNEY M.
Principal Investigator: SIMS, COLETTE M MA
Title: Health Access/Utilization Behavior of Older Black Women
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA TUCSON, AZ
Project Period: 2003/03/31-2005/03/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): In order to operationalize and develop preventative/therapeutic health delivery systems into tangible outcomes that successfully meet the needs of any vulnerable sub-population, researchers must examine and understand the multiple meanings of the social categories of race, gender and old age that can lead to cumulative vulnerability. The study will specifically draw on two distinct sample populations of older African American women (aged 40-55 and 56 and over), and will include women who have utilized preventative health care services (e.g. mammograms, and other screening tests) and those who have not. It is reasoned that women of these two age groups may have distinct health care seeking behavior, different social support networks, as well as divergent health conditions associated with aging. The proposed study will obtain detailed qualitative information on life events, as well as quantitative information on the use of preventative and curative health care services by older African American women. This study will utilize key informants and document African American women's health care seeking behavior through individual in-depth interviews with (40) women and focus group interviews. In addition, focus groups will be conducted with health care providers/practitioners who work with this population. A mixed method approach allows for a more careful, detailed investigation of how predisposing, enabling and service factors may impact decisions to access and utilize preventive services (e.g., annual physicals, mammograms, pap smears, etc.) as well as curative health care services (e.g., follow-up, therapeutic services, etc).

Grant: 1F32AG023438-01
Program Director: PATMIOS, GEORGEANNE
Principal Investigator: CRAMER, ANNE T PHD
Title: Long-Term Care Insurance: The Purchase Decision
Institution: WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY DETROIT, MI
Project Period: 2004/01/01-2005/12/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The need for long-term medical care has been increasing in recent years and is projected to continue in the years ahead. With this increase, there is much concern about how to pay for the long-term medical care. Because of the potential drain on public funds, there is interest in identifying what circumstances motivate private purchase of long-term care (LTC) insurance and what options individuals have if they choose not to purchase LTC insurance. The goal of the proposed study is to develop, extend, and publish findings about the LTC insurance purchase decision. Specific aims of the proposal include: 1) Expand preliminary findings which suggest that family circumstances are influential in the original purchase decision, while price and income considerations become more important in the renewal decision. 2) Explore the relationship between LTC insurance and other products, such as Medigap, Medicare HMO, and retiree health insurance. 3) Explore the relationship between LTC insurance and care alternatives such as nursing home care and care giving at home. An understanding of the LTC insurance purchase decision is critical in ensuring continued access to long-term medical care for seniors. It will allow us to assess the potential for encouraging private purchase and will allow us to evaluate the appropriateness of public funding.

Grant: 3F32AG020893-01S1
Program Director: STAHL, SIDNEY M.
Principal Investigator: DREW, LINDA M PHD PSYCHOLOGY
Title: Grandparent health & loss of contact with grandchildren
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, CA
Project Period: 2003/04/15-

DESCRIPTION (provided by candidate): This study will examine grandparents' emotional and physical health consequences resulting from the loss or reduction in contact with their grandchildren due to parental divorce, family feud, or death/illness of an adult child. Grandparenting role salience will be evaluated as a mediator of the effects of loss on health through a weakening of subjective role identification. Additionally, it will be determined if the external (social support) and internal (locus of control) resources of the grandparent moderate the negative health outcomes for grandparents. Solidarity and conflict between grandparents and their adult children (parents of their grandchildren) will be examined for the underlying family dynamics that serve as risk factors for the loss of contact with grandchildren. Longitudinal survey data and multivariate models of analyses will be used in defining the risk factors for grandparents. A small body of work in Canada and the UK have found curtailed contact with grandchildren to be largely a hidden source of misery affecting many thousands of grandparents. If the same negative health consequences are found for American grandparents, this will highlight the unique frustrations and difficulties experienced by a growing number of potentially at-risk individuals, and raise important family policy considerations regarding grandparent rights. By examining how consequences vary with characteristics of grandparents, and in relation to intergenerational family solidarity and conflict, these findings will have implications for the forms intervention services should take.

Grant: 1F32AG022727-01
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: NIELSEN, LISBETH PHD
Title: Emotion experience and decision behavior in normal aging
Institution: STANFORD UNIVERSITY STANFORD, CA
Project Period: 2003/09/01-2006/08/31

DESCRIPTION (provided by candidate): Specifying how emotional factors influence motivation, choice, and decisions across the lifespan is a critical goal for understanding the aging mind. While emotion has traditionally been considered disruptive to rational choice, recent studies demonstrating the tight interplay of emotion and reason in both economic and social decisions suggest a more differentiated picture. Emotions provide information to the decision-maker regarding the relevance of choice options, the attractiveness of strategies, and the desirability of outcomes. Age-related changes may complicate this picture. Despite predictable cognitive declines, emotional functions are remarkably preserved in normal aging. Moreover, changes in emotional and social goals at the end of life may interact with decision behaviors in as yet unknown ways. A major question addressed by this research is whether there are age-related differences in emotional influences on decision-making and whether biological or motivational changes lie at their core. Four studies are proposed to examine the experiential, behavioral, physiological, and neural correlates of emotion elicited by decisions involving monetary incentives pursued in social contexts. Experiments 1 and 2 examine the influence of aging and time perspective on emotion experience, motivated behavior, and peripheral physiology in a monetary incentive task within a social exchange context. Experiment 3 examines age-related differences in the activity of neural systems involved in emotion experiences related to the anticipation and receipt of rewards and losses. Experiment 4 focuses on the influence of time perspective manipulations on activity in these neural systems.

Grant: 5F32AG020886-02
Program Director: ELIAS, JEFFREY W.
Principal Investigator: PETERS, CYNTHIA J PHD
Title: Cognition, Social Relationships, and Poor Health
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHICAGO, IL
Project Period: 2002/04/09-

This F32 training proposal seeks support for a three-year program of research and training to be carried out at the University of Chicago and NORC under the guidance of Dr. Linda Waite. This research seeks to assess the role of physical health in the development of mild cognitive impairment and dementia. A second goal is to advance our understanding of the disability that results from dementia by examining social and psychosocial factors that reduce the likelihood of cognitive decline. Its specific aims are (1) To examine the extent to which behavioral factors (alcohol consumption, obesity, physical activity) and health conditions act as predictors for cognitive impairment in older adults using longitudinal, population-based data, (2) To develop a broad definition of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) usable in non-clinical settings, and (3) To examine the extent to which incidence, and changes in, cognitive functioning are associated with psychological factors (depression, hopelessness) and social factors (social network participation or integration, social support). This work will expand the field of demography of aging in several ways, by: (1) examining factors that might alter the life course at the onset of cognitive decline; (b) developing new methods to identify cognitive decline in older adults earlier than in clinical settings; and (c) extending social support theory by applying it to diseases of senescence care. Analysis of data will come from two sources: the population-based Health and Retirement Study (HIRS) and microfindings from interviews with a small, non-random sample of individuals who experience dementia-associated disability.